Welcome

It is always difficult to capture in such a publication the essence, energy and sheer excellence that underpins a university like Bristol – its leading-edge research, its highly talented and driven students and staff. This is no easy task and I hope that we have managed to convey perhaps a snapshot of what, in my view, makes Bristol such an exceptional university.

I am pleased to introduce the University’s annual review for the academic year 2013-2014. This has been another highly successful year for Bristol across the whole spectrum of our activities.

One such measure of these achievements is shown in our continued upward trajectory in the global university rankings, placing Bristol among the world’s most prestigious institutions. As a truly global university, we have a positive impact on many people’s lives all over the world and this is a position of privilege which we most certainly do not take for granted.

On a personal note, this is the last Review of the Year that I will introduce, as I step down as Vice-Chancellor in August 2015. I look back at the University’s many achievements over my years as Vice-Chancellor with immense pride. Bristol is recognised globally for the quality of its research and teaching and this is testament to the significant talent and dedication of my colleagues across the institution.

Over the last year the University has continued to attract, and modestly increase in number, high-achieving undergraduate and postgraduate students. It has continued to address the most pressing global issues through its research and it has continued to invest significantly in its estate in order to remain at the leading edge.

All of this places Bristol in a highly enviable and strong position to be able to face the opportunities and challenges ahead with absolute confidence, and to remain true to its vision of being a world-class university.

Professor Sir Eric Thomas
Vice-Chancellor

Contents

05 Our research
19 A global institution
22 Working in partnership
24 Education and the student experience
28 Our students
30 Honorary degrees
31 Investing in our estate
32 Bristol alumni
33 Philanthropy

The latest University Annual Report and Financial Statements are available at www.bristol.ac.uk/finance/statements/
Our research

The University’s research is world renowned for its quality and impact and covers a broad spectrum of disciplines. We seek to address the world’s most urgent issues head on: issues such as health and disease, climate change, food security, energy and social justice. Our academics are engaged with the cultural life and history of nations, communities and individuals across the world; with the future of technology, science and medicine and the development of innovations in every field; and with the rich cross-pollination made possible by interdisciplinary fields. Our research quality and standing is underlined by the numerous awards, prizes and fellowships associated with members of the University community. Our excellent international reputation in research is reflected in the wide range of collaborative work through funding bodies including the Wellcome Trust, UK research councils, the European Union, charities and commercial research organisations.

Our priorities in this area are to:

- Be recognised globally for the quality of our research
- Create a positive research environment and infrastructure that will attract and retain the highest quality researchers and postgraduate students worldwide
- Develop our portfolio of flagship and high-impact research, working across and between disciplines to answer important societal questions and contribute to the social, political, environmental and economic wellbeing of the region, the UK and the wider world
- Seek, manage and provide professional support for strategic relationships and alliances with key national and international partners – business and industry, the public sector, user communities, sponsors of research and policymakers
- Play a leading intellectual role in enterprise, knowledge exchange and economic and social impact agendas, and continue to be a beacon of good practice and leader of innovation in the city and region
- Develop a sustainable portfolio of research informed by evidence-based leadership, management and administration and supported by high standards of governance

Arts & Humanities // Social Sciences & Law // Engineering & Science // Medical & Health Sciences
The School of Modern Languages will form a geographic, historical and linguistic map of Italian mobility.

The Italian connection
The School of Modern Languages is investigating how modern Italian culture has developed around the world

Whether it’s Umberto Eco on our bookshelves, Tony Soprano on our screens or mozzarella in our shopping baskets, Italian culture is now firmly embedded in the fabric of societies across the world. But while we all enjoy our morning espresso or evening glass of Chianti, we rarely stop to ask how these Italian communities came to establish themselves so far from home.

Our researchers are looking at how Italian culture has developed around the world. Whether it is Umberto Eco on our bookshelves, Tony Soprano on our screens or mozzarella in our shopping baskets, Italian culture is now firmly embedded in the fabric of societies across the world.

During the project, called Transnationalising Modern Languages: Mobility, Identity and Translation in Modern Italian Cultures, academics from Bristol are working alongside colleagues at Queen Margaret University and the Universities of St Andrews and Warwick to study Italian community groups who experience both linguistic and cultural translation on a daily basis to help develop their understanding of how people respond to living in a bilingual or multilingual environment.

In addition, they are examining a wealth of publications and materials – journals, literature, life stories, photographs, memorabilia and so on – from Italian communities to examine the impact they have on notions of national identity.

Professor Charles Burdett, who is leading the project at Bristol, says: “Italy offers an exceptionally rich example for any study of cultural and linguistic translation owing to its global history of migration. Thanks to funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), we’re able to carry out extensive analysis to form a geographic, historical and linguistic map of Italian mobility.”

The project has been awarded £1.8 million by the AHRC and falls under its Translating Cultures theme, which addresses the need for better understanding and communication between and across diverse cultures.

The richness of breath
As Harper Lee once noted: “One does not love breathing.” It is a basic physiological mechanism we barely notice, but one which has enormous cultural, spiritual and emotional meaning. Breath has traditionally been seen as what connects spirit and body and it is strongly affected by mood and emotion. In their joint five-year project, The Life of Breath, Professor Havi Carel of Bristol and Professor Jane Macnaughton of the University of Durham are studying breath and breathlessness in literary and cultural history, philosophy and medical history. The project is being supported by the Wellcome Trust.

New Dictionary of Hymnology published
For the first time in more than a hundred years, a new Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology has been published. The result of ten years’ research by editors headed by Professor JR Watten of the University of Durham, and Dr Emma Horrobin of the University of Bristol, the Canterbury Dictionary, the standard historical reference book for pre-20th-century Christian hymns, contains over 4,000 entries written by more than 300 authors from around the world, including America, Canada, South Korea and Brazil.

The Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology is supported by grants from learned foundations such as the British Academy and the Modern Humanities Research Association.

Extreme dairy farming
Whether you add a drop to your morning coffee, pour it over cereal or prefer it straight up with a cookie before bed, milk forms the cornerstone of the average person’s diet – and none more so than that of our friends in Finland.

The Finns are the world’s biggest milk drinkers today but researchers from the Universities of Bristol and Helsinki have discovered that this dates back to 2500 BC.

Experts had previously been unable to establish whether prehistoric dairy farming was possible in the harsh environment of the far north, where there is snow for up to four months a year, but using high-tech techniques, they were able to analyse residues preserved in fragments of ancient pots.

Dr Lucy Cramp from the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology at Bristol said: “This is remarkable evidence which proves that four-and-a-half thousand years ago, Stone Age people must have been foddering and sheltering domesticated animals over harsh winters, in conditions that even nowadays we would find challenging.

Meanwhile, Bristol archaeologists Professor Mark Horton and Professor Alex Benton are collaborating with design agency Uniform to explore how connected devices might open up new ways to share stories embodied in rare archaeological objects connected with the transatlantic slave trade.

The projects form part of REACT (Research and Enterprise in Arts and Creative Technology), which funds collaborations between arts and humanities researchers and creative companies.
The number of impoverished families in the UK has doubled in the last 30 years, a study led by the University of Bristol has found.

One in three people now live in poverty with the number of impoverished families having doubled in the last 30 years. These were the stark findings from the largest study of poverty and deprivation ever conducted in the UK.

The Poverty and Social Exclusion in the United Kingdom (PSE) project, led by the University of Bristol and funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, found that the percentage of households who fell below society’s minimum standard of living increased from 14 per cent to 33 per cent over the last 30 years. These were the stark findings from the largest study of poverty and deprivation ever conducted in the UK.

Researchers from the University of Bristol worked with colleagues at the Open University, Queen’s University Belfast, the Universities of Glasgow, Oxford, Birmingham and York, the National Centre for Social Research and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. They found that around 5.5 million adults go without clothing; 2.5 million children live in damp homes; and more than 20 per cent of adults have had to borrow in the last year to pay for day-to-day needs.

Other key figures revealed that almost 18 million people cannot afford adequate housing conditions; 12 million people are too poor to engage in common social activities; a third of people cannot afford to heat their homes adequately in the winter; and four million children and adults are not properly fed by current standards.

The research, which was part of the Citizens Advice Bureaux and Employment Disputes project and funded by the European Research Council, examined the effect of employment tribunal fees on employees’ lives and livelihoods.

With fees ranging from £160 to £1,200, many people reported that they could no longer afford to seek resolution of their employment-related disputes. The number of claims made to employment tribunals in the months January to March 2016 fell by 81 per cent compared to the same quarter the previous year, according to statistics published by the Ministry of Justice.

Britain on the breadline

A nationwide poverty study, led by the University of Bristol, called on the government to tackle deprivation.

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Access to justice limited

In July 2013 the coalition government introduced fees to those who wished to bring a claim or appeal to the employment tribunal, in an effort to encourage businesses and workers to mediate or settle a dispute rather than go to a full hearing. However, research by the Universities of Bristol and Strathclyde has found that the tribunal fees have limited access to justice for workers.

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Physical inactivity prevalent

Keeping fit and staying active is fundamental to our health and wellbeing, but an alarming number of individuals in the UK do not get enough exercise, according to research led by the University of Bristol.

The study, funded by the Economic and Research Council, examined data on over one million adults in England and found that almost 80 per cent did not hit national physical activity targets set by the government. Fewer than 10 per cent of the adult population in England who could walk did not walk for five minutes continuously in a four-week period, 46 per cent had not walked for leisure for 30 minutes continuously, 88 per cent had not swum and nine out of ten had not used a gym.

In stark contrast, a separate University of Bristol study found that older people who undertook at least 30 minutes of moderate or vigorous exercise every day needed fewer prescriptions and were less likely to be admitted to hospital in an emergency.

Adoptive parents praised

The “commitment and tenacity” of adoptive parents has been highlighted as the reason for a lower-than-expected disruption rate in adoptions, a report has found. In the most comprehensive study into adoption in England, researchers from the University of Bristol analysed data on 37,335 adoptions over a 12-year period and found that 3.2 per cent of children moved out of their adoptive home prematurely, known as a “disruption”.

They found that a disruption was more likely if a child was placed once they went over the age of four, with teenagers ten times more at risk of moving out of their adoptive home than children under the age of four.

Professor Julie Selwyn, Head of the Hadley Centre for Adoption and Foster Care Studies at the University of Bristol, said: “The disruption rate was lower than we expected. The reason for that became obvious when we met families, whose commitment and tenacity was remarkable in very testing circumstances.”

An alarming number of individuals in the UK do not get enough exercise. Keeping fit and staying active is fundamental to our health and wellbeing, but an alarming number of individuals in the UK do not get enough exercise, according to research led by the University of Bristol.
## Engineering & Science

### Our research

#### The quantum revolution

Quantum technologies are set to fundamentally change our lives as the first commercially available devices begin to emerge.

The ability to design and create new materials and pharmaceuticals at a fraction of today’s cost is not only an enticing prospect but also a very real one, according to Professor Jeremy O’Brien, Director of the Centre for Quantum Photonics at the University of Bristol.

During his speech to senior political and business leaders at the World Economic Forum meeting of the New Champions 2013, held in China, Professor O’Brien discussed the future of ICT and the impact that the quantum technologies revolution will have on the future of society and economics.

Professor O’Brien, who has been named a RISE Leader for 2014 by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, said that quantum technologies offer unprecedented precision and computers that are exponentially more powerful than any supercomputer for certain tasks. These technologies, he continued, are destined to fundamentally change our lives with the emergence of the first commercially available quantum devices.

The speech proved timely as physicists at Bristol got one step closer to proving the reliability of a quantum computer. This machine promises to revolutionise the way we trade over the internet and offers the hope of quickly solving problems that would take the best supercomputers the lifetime of the universe to solve.

While a fully-fledged commercial quantum computer may take years to materialise, researchers have been testing a more basic device, called a Boson Sampler, which focuses on carrying out one fixed task using the behaviour of photons, or particles of light, and asking whether large systems of quantum particles behave as predicted by quantum mechanics.

Conventional computers cannot simulate large versions of these quantum devices so it is not clear if they are truly performing complex tasks.

To address this problem, the Bristol team devised and demonstrated new techniques using the most advanced techniques of integrated photonics, which showed how to measure certain properties of Boson Samplers to provide experimental evidence to support the correct operation.

The researchers hope that the broader methods behind the experiments will be applicable to other types of quantum devices when conventional verification techniques are not possible.

#### Using maths to combat cancer

A new branch of mathematics has been established to help develop improved drug control in the battle against cancer. Scientists from Bristol’s School of Mathematics, including Professor Taniwaki Liverpool, claim that by understanding how an artificial ‘synthetic swimmer’ can be made and driven, and how such swimmers behave in large groups, a better drug control system to cure cancer can be developed.

While the current chemotherapy approach to treating cancer targets the entire body, this improved drug control would target only the specific affected cancerous area.

Although a lot is now understood about synthetic swimmers, both alone and in large groups, many new questions are being raised, making the topic a very active area of research – and one that lies at the crossroads of physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics.

#### UltraHaptics allows invisible information to be shared

In the future, information displays at museums or smartphones, are common in everyday life and allow users to gain information in a simple and accessible way.

Now a team from the University of Bristol’s Interaction and Graphics (BIG) research group have developed a solution that not only allows people to see what is on an interactive surface but also feel it and receive invisible information before they even touch it.

Called UltraHaptics, this system provides multi-point mid-air haptic feedback above a touch surface, using the principle of acoustic radiation force to project palpable sensations through a screen and directly into the user’s hands.

#### Life on Mars

Three researchers from the University of Bristol spent two weeks living in cramped conditions in the Utah desert to simulate life on Mars.

The team conducted a range of experiments, including field-testing hardware developed by NASA that extracts hydrogen and oxygen from soil, to help prepare for future missions and to publicise the importance of space travel to the red planet.

Elsewhere, scientists from NASA’s InSight mission to Mars have been searching for a suitable location to calibrate the seismometer that they will send to the red planet in 2016. Recent tests carried out at the Ultra-Low Noises Lab at the University of Bristol’s Centre for Nanoscience and Quantum Information (NSQI) have shown it to be the quietest location in the UK in the critical seismic frequency range that scientists expect to encounter on Mars.

A team from Bristol’s School of Earth Sciences has been working with Dr Pete Dunton at NSQI to help calibrate and test the Mars-bound instrument.

#### Pioneering sonic ‘tweezers’

The development of pioneering ‘tweezers’ that use ultrasound to grip and manipulate tiny clusters of cells could lead to life-changing medical advances, according to a team researchers from the Universities of Bristol, Dundee, Glasgow and Southampton.

The tweezers use multiple, tiny beams of ultrasonic waves that manipulate and nudge cells into a required position, turn them around or hold them firmly in place. For example, cartilage cells taken from a patient’s knee can be levitated for weeks in a nutrient-rich fluid, enabling them to grow and form better implant tissue than when cultured on a glass Petri dish.

In addition, the tweezers can mould the growing tissue into the right shape so that the implant is fit for purpose when inserted into the patient’s knee, reducing the need for knee replacements.

The research was funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.
Evidence suggests all dinosaurs had feathers

How many feathered dinosaurs can you name? Archaeopteryx, velociraptor, ornithomimus...? In fact, you could probably name a great deal more following the discovery of fossils in Siberia that suggest all dinosaurs could have been feathered.

The new dinosaur, named Kulindadromeus zabaikalicus, is the first ever example of a plant-eating dinosaur with feather and scales. Previously only flesh-eating dinosaurs were known to have been feathered.

The feathers were studied by the University of Bristol’s Dr Maria McNamara and Professor Michael Benton, and Professor Danielle Droux of the Universite Joseph Fourier in Grenoble, France.

Bubbles for the 21st-century

Imagine a clock that releases a number of bubbles corresponding to the hour to help children tell the time. Or bubbles with images projected onto them to help advertisers reach an audience in a new and innovative way. These are just some of the possible applications of the SensaBubble, a new multi-sensory technology that creates soap bubbles to deliver information to people using different senses.

The SensaBubble technology, which was revealed at ACM CHI 2014, one of the world’s most important conferences on human-computer interfaces, creates bubbles with a specified size and frequency, fills them with an opaque fog that can be scented, controls their route, tracks their location and projects an image onto them.

Computing and cyber security

More secure computing could be one step closer thanks to a breakthrough in cryptography by the University of Bristol and Denmark’s Aarhus University. The academics worked together to develop the SPDZ protocol (pronounced ‘speedz’), the fastest protocol known to implement a theoretical idea called ‘multi-party computation’, which allows two or more people to compute a function on their secret inputs without revealing their inputs to anybody else – for example, when voters wish their vote to be counted but don’t want their decision to be made public.

The SPDZ protocol turns this theoretical idea into a practical reality, allowing the team to compute complex functions in a secure manner, enabling possible applications in the finance, drugs and chemical industries.

Elsewhere, researchers from the University’s Cryptography Group and the Safety Systems Research Centre have contributed to an EU paper on the resilience of critical information structures.

The aim of the white paper is to raise awareness about how organisations can respond to the increasing numbers of recent security incidents against industrial control systems (ICS) and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) and provides recommendations regarding prevention and adequate response.

The discovery of the Kulindadromeus zabaikalicus suggests all dinosaurs could have been feathered

Medical & Health Sciences

Tackling brain damage in newborn babies

Cooling newborn babies deprived of oxygen at birth significantly reduces the risk of brain damage

It has been hailed as life changing and revolutionary, saves 1,500 babies from death and disability each year and helps the NHS and families save more than £200 million per annum.

Researchers found that over half (51.7 per cent) of infants treated with hypothermia survived with an IQ of 85 or above, which is considered to be within the normal range, compared with 39.4 per cent of those treated with standard care plus hypothermia, where their body temperature was reduced to 33.5°C for three days.

The study was conducted by a team of researchers from the Universities of Bristol, Oxford and Leeds, University College London, Queen’s University Belfast and Homerton University Hospital. It was the largest study of its kind and the first to show improved brain function in children treated using this method in later life.

During the trial, newborn babies that suffered from a lack of oxygen at birth were randomly assigned into two groups within six hours of delivery. One group was treated with standard care while the other group was treated with standard care plus hypothermia, where their body temperature was reduced to 33.5°C for three days.

Researchers found that over half (51.7 per cent) of infants treated with hypothermia survived with an IQ of 85 or above, which is considered to be within the normal range, compared with 39.4 per cent of those treated with standard care. Furthermore, children who received the cooling treatment were less likely to suffer from cerebral palsy and other moderate or severe disabilities, and showed improved motor functioning.
We knew that these tiny organs between the carotid body and the brain — a nodule no larger than a rice grain found on the side of each carotid artery — appear to be a major culprit in the development and regulation of high blood pressure.

Researchers, led by Professor Julian Paton from the School of Physiology and Pharmacology in the Faculty of Medical and Veterinary Sciences, found that removing the carotid body connection to the brain in rodents with high blood pressure, blood pressure fell and remained low.

The carotid body regulates the amount of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the blood and is stimulated when oxygen levels fall in your blood — for example, when you hold your breath. This causes a dramatic increase in breathing and blood pressure until blood oxygen levels are restored, a response that comes about through a nervous connection between the carotid body and the brain.

“We knew that these tiny organs behaved differently in conditions of hypertension but had absolutely no idea that they contributed so massively to the generation of high blood pressure,” Professor Paton said.

In 1991 and 1992 more than 14,000 pregnant women in Bristol and the surrounding area agreed to take part in a groundbreaking study that would help scientists investigate the ways in which the environment and genetics interact over time to influence health and development.

Unlike other studies, ALSPAC recruited women during pregnancy so that precise information could be gathered about their children’s lives even before they were born, and which followed their development through to adulthood. The project, also known as Children of the 90s, today has 32,000 participants including the original mothers, their 14,500 children, 3,000 participants including the original fathers, 200 grandchildren and 550 siblings.

The project has received almost £8 million in core funding from the Medical Research Council and the Wellcome Trust to continue its work until March 2019.

Landmark moment for ALSPAC project

One of the world’s largest population studies, which has been charting the health of 14,500 Bristol families since the early 1990s in order to improve the health of future generations, celebrated an important landmark in its acclaimed history.

Researchers from the University of Bristol-based Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC), which has provided data to almost 600 academics worldwide, published their 1,000th paper, showing that men who started smoking before the age of 11 had fewer sons.

In a move described as a “wonderful outcome” by the Chief Executive of the Meningitis Research Foundation, the Department of Health announced that it would be working towards introducing a life-saving vaccine for meningitis B (MenB).

Bexsero is the first lifesaving vaccine for MenB, which is the leading cause of death from infection in young children, and would be free on the NHS for babies.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) had recommended that the move to the government using the mathematical and economic models developed by researchers from the University of Bristol’s School of Social and Community Medicine, alongside colleagues from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

The models were used as a tool to help predict the number of cases prevented under several potential introductory vaccination programmes and whether these programmes would be cost-effective. The JCVI concluded that evidence showed Bexsero is effective in preventing MenB in infants and should be rolled out, subject to it being made available by the manufacturer at a cost-effective price.

Cultured blood cells ready by 2016

Every year over 90 million red blood cell transfusions take place across the world, playing a vital role in current clinical practice. These are currently made possible by blood donation programmes, but supplies in many countries are insufficient and donations bring a range of challenges, including the risk of infection, incompatibility and overloading iron levels.

New research carried out by a consortium that includes the University of Bristol, aims to tackle these issues through the use of red blood cells cultured in the laboratory.

The consortium will use pluripotent stem cells, able to form any other cell in the body, to multiply and become fresh red blood cells that, it is hoped, will survive longer and perform better than donated blood cells. The first human volunteer will receive these cultured red blood cells within the next three years.

The work is being carried out as part of a long-term research programme funded by the Wellcome Trust.
Medical & Health Sciences

Patients are more likely to raise health problems with a GP they’ve seen over time. Apitope has announced positive results from its latest clinical trial.

Consistency is key
Seeing the same GP is good for your health, according to two pieces of research carried out by the University.

In the first study, researchers from the School of Social and Community Medicine found that patients were more likely to raise a health problem with a doctor they’d seen over time, and that those GPs could provide a good quality of patient care as they would have better knowledge of the patient’s medical history, medications and health-related behaviours and attitudes.

Researchers collected data from 22 practices, recording consultations between 190 patients and 30 GPs, and found that almost a third of patients had a ‘deep’ relationship with their doctor, which in turn encouraged them to raise 0.5 more problems (requiring a GP to make a decision or diagnosis) and 0.9 more issues (such as symptoms) during each consultation.

In a separate study, carried out by the University’s Centre for Academic Primary Care, researchers found that attendances at emergency departments could be reduced if patients saw the same GP every time they visited their doctor’s surgery. The report looked to evidence from studies around the world and found that patients who saw the same doctor every time they attended their GP surgery were less likely to require emergency care.

The company, which focuses on treating the underlying cause of autoimmune diseases, such as multiple sclerosis (MS), completed its second phase I clinical trial to assess the safety of its peptide therapeutic in 43 patients with relapsing MS. Review of the MRI data showed a significant decrease in new lesions – an early indicator of potential efficacy.

The Cabot Institute
Named after John Cabot (Zuan Caboto), the Genoese explorer who is credited as discovering North America after setting sail from Bristol, the Cabot Institute carries out research on living with environmental uncertainty.

The Institute drives new research in the interconnected areas of climate change, natural hazards, water, food and energy security, and the structure and governance of resilient, sustainable cities. The Institute is a multidisciplinary venture that spans the breadth of intellectual endeavour across the University as well as that of its civic and industrial partners.

Co-funded by the Wellcome Trust and the University of Bristol, the EBI sets out to “widen the gene pool” of health research by fostering novel interdisciplinary research communities and translating their breakthroughs into benefits for patients. It does this by identifying and supporting talented young people, developing trusted external partnerships and encouraging public involvement in research.

The University of Bristol is currently leading a key collaboration to help address the challenges faced by the UK’s healthcare system by developing a ‘digital health assistant’ that would operate around the clock, monitoring individuals with health conditions, such as diabetes.

The Flagship project, known as SPHERE (Sensor Platform for Healthcare in a Residential Environment), was awarded £12 million by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and brings together scientists from the Universities of Bristol, Southampton and Reading, who will work in partnership Bristol City Council, Knowle West Media Centre, Toshiba and IBM.

The EBI is also supporting a pioneering project to help create a chemical compound database, which could lead to the creation of new medicines, materials and agrochemicals.

The National Compound Collection (NCC) began life in 2013 when the University of Bristol’s Dr Laura Broad spent four months collating interesting chemical compounds found on the shelves of the School of Chemistry, cataloguing any that were in a usable state and that could have a range of applications in the future.

Since then, the project has grown and evolved with Dr Broad coordinating a team of eleven data collectors who search for compounds from 16 partner universities. Now in its pilot phase, the NCC is funded by the Royal Society of Chemistry and supported by the EBI.
Many of the University’s activities and partnerships support its role as a global institution. It seeks to address key global challenges through its research, it builds partnerships with other leading international universities, it attracts the brightest minds from across the globe and its alumni are present in more than 180 countries. Meanwhile, the University’s home students are encouraged to take advantage of the many overseas study opportunities available to them.

The University has over 150 exchange links with top ranking universities in more than 30 countries around the world. Depending on a student’s degree programme, they are able to choose from these exchange links in order to study abroad for a semester or a full academic year as part of their course at Bristol. Possibilities include the Sorbonne in France, the University of Chicago in the United States and McGill in Canada.

Some students also have the option of taking part in a work placement abroad that forms an integrated part of their study. Bristol students have worked at companies such as Sotheby’s in Madrid, Vogue in Paris and Credit Suisse in Milan. Students benefit from the opportunity to learn a new language, experience a new culture and enhance their desirability with prospective employers.
Forging links with the US

The University of Bristol’s Pro Vice-Chancellor International, Professor Nick Lieven, led a delegation of academics to New York’s University of Rochester to strengthen ties between the two institutions and explore further opportunities for collaboration.

The University of Rochester in upstate New York is one of the top-tier research universities in the United States and is placed within the top 100 of the Academic Ranking of World Universities. Its alumni include Nobel Prize winners Steven Chu, Masatoshi Kishiba and Arthur Kornberg, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Steven Hahn and composer George Walker.

Bristol and Rochester have existing links within the areas of vision science and translational medicine and are seeking to establish collaborations in areas within engineering, digital humanities and brain and cognitive science. The universities will also discuss student exchange to enrich the experience of students in both Bristol and Rochester.

Back in Bristol, the University welcomed students from United States as part of the second annual Fulbright Summer Institute, which was established to increase knowledge of the culture, heritage and history of the UK.

Nine undergraduates from America took part in workshops, seminars and field trips during their visit, looking at the role Bristol has played in American history.

Bristol-Kyoto Symposium

Institutional links between the University of Bristol and Kyoto University were further strengthened at the second Bristol-Kyoto Symposium, held in Kyoto. Dr Hiroshi Matsumoto, the President of Kyoto University, was presented with an award by Professor Academician Xi Zhang, the Head of the Chemistry Department at the University of Bristol, in recognition of the strong bilateral research and collaboration at the University and the UK.

Speakers from the University of Bristol, the Technology Strategy Board, Tongji University, the University of the West of England, the University of Washington, the National Composites Centre and IDEALIST project, which discussed the future of wireless communications at a major 5G summit held in New York.

Andrew Nick, Professor of Wireless Communication Systems, and Mark Beach, Professor of Radio Systems Engineering, were invited to discuss the future of wireless communications at a major 5G summit held in New York.

In a separate engagement, two Bristol academics were invited to discuss the future of wireless communications at a major 5G summit held in New York. Andrew Nick, Professor of Wireless Communication Systems, and Mark Beach, Professor of Radio Systems Engineering, who was a representative of the University of Bristol, were invited to participate in WUN’s broad range of activities, tackling major research challenges that no individual institution could address alone.

In a recent project Professor Susan Robertson in the Graduate School of Education, alongside Professor Kris Olds from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, launched an inter-institutional open online course designed to examine issues related to the globalisation of higher education and research.

Students overseas

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Working with Bristol-based charity The Converging World, the students travelled to the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu to discuss ways in which villages can improve their lives by generating their own power.

Tackling global challenges

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In response, an international team of scientists, led by academics at the University of Bristol, have put forward eight strategies to help cut the environmental and economic costs of keeping livestock while also boosting the quantity and quality of the food produced.

The eight strategies include:

- Feed animals less human food
- Farm regionally appropriate animals
- Keep animals healthy
- Use smart supplements
- Aim for quality not quantity
- Tailor farming practices to local culture
- Track costs and benefits
- Study best practice to share with local farmers

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Working in partnership

The University works in a highly collaborative way to deliver major interdisciplinary projects. These partnerships extend way beyond academia and embrace all sectors as well as many parts of the community. Part of the University’s ethos is that it should play an active role within the region. These activities encompass everything from the regional health agenda and supporting the region’s economy, to supporting and contributing to the city’s globally renowned cultural, creative and scientific output.

Partners

Bristol Health Partners is a leading collaboration between the University of Bristol, the University of the West of England, Bristol’s three NHS trusts, three clinical commissioning groups and the local authority which aims to help maximise the city’s health research, and to transform the understanding, prevention and treatment of key health problems in Bristol.

Inspired by the success of similar collaborations in the USA, Europe and East Asia, its mission is to generate health gains and improvements in service delivery in the city by promoting and developing Bristol’s strengths in health services, research, innovation and education.

In December 2013 Bristol SETsquared was awarded the Business Incubator Design Award for its new enterprise hub at Brunel’s Engine Shed in Temple Meads. The award was given in recognition of the hub’s highly connected location, the entrepreneurial heritage of the building and the “oxygen supply” created by the businesses using Engine Shed.

The Bristol SETsquared Centre has consistently achieved a very high success rate – 98 per cent of businesses it has supported since 2007 have succeeded and the current 65 members have raised over £95 million worth of investment in the 18 months to July 2014.

Centre Director Nick Sturge says: “The work we do at SETsquared, connecting SMEs with the university, and the university with the city-region’s world-class innovation ecosystem, has been phenomenally successful. With Engine Shed, our new collaboration with Bristol City Council, we are better able to sustain that and play an even more significant part in the long-term growth of the local economy and the University.”

The National Composites Centre is a leading example of university-industry collaboration. This world-leading research and technology hub, owned by the University, draws on established links to world-class composites research at Bristol, the University of Bath and other UK universities and is set to double in size following government funding of £28 million, allowing it to extend its capabilities to develop composite technology for the aerospace, automotive, renewable energy and rail sectors.

The University also has a number of industry partnerships with companies including Rolls-Royce, EDF Energy, Arup and Toshiba.

Universities

Working in partnership with universities across the region and the rest of the world is increasingly important, helping institutions to share research infrastructure, address global challenges and maximise the impact of and return on investment.

The Universities of Bristol, Bath, Cardiff and Exeter announced a formal collaboration, known as GW4, in 2013, bringing together a high concentration of research expertise and capability in the region.

These four research-intensive universities, which already have strong partnerships, each have significant research capabilities that represent a total turnover in excess of £1 billion.

The GW4 Board is chaired by Professor Guy Orpen, the University of Bristol’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor. In addition, the University has embarked on a pioneering partnership with Kyoto University to explore how collaborative research and thinking could help tackle some of the world’s biggest challenges. The University welcomed a record-breaking 96 delegates from Kyoto as a Memorandum of Understanding was signed.

The public

The University is committed to engaging the public through its research and through the activities of its students. It also hosts the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement, in partnership with the University of the West of England. In addition, it hosts a variety of events to bring together academics, students and the public while also collaborating with external organisations interested in engaging with the University. For example, the University played a key part in the Bristol Festival of Nature, hosting interactive exhibits and activities aimed at families, and invited members of the public to explore the contemporary and historic buildings not usually open to visitors as part of the annual Doors Open Day.

The University continues to invest in primary school science through the Primary Science Teaching Trust. Professor Dudley Shallcross from the School of Chemistry has been seconded part-time to be Director of the Primary Science Teaching Trust and, over the last four years, has developed and implemented a new strategy for the Trust, where the focus is on developing and supporting teachers in their pursuit of excellence in the teaching of Primary Science.

“With SETsquared, we are able to play an even more significant part in the long-term growth of the local economy”

The University engages with the public through events like Doors Open Day. Professor Guy Orpen.
At Bristol we expect the best for and from our students. We aim to educate the brightest of their generation to become leaders in their chosen career. Central to our ethos at Bristol is research-led teaching. This means that our students are involved in and exposed to the very latest thinking in their academic discipline, as well as benefiting from core skills driven through research projects that include tackling challenging problems, managing their own projects and taking responsibility for decisions. We continue to invest comprehensively in facilities, training and technology, as well as seeking to remove barriers for those people who may not traditionally consider a university like Bristol as being an attainable goal.

The University’s priorities in this area are to:
- attract and retain academically gifted and highly motivated students from a wide range of backgrounds, creating a diverse and international university community
- provide an education of the highest quality that is research-led and focused on the needs and expectations of our students
- ensure students have a fulfilling, challenging and intellectually stimulating experience while at university, that prepares them for employment and worldwide opportunities when they leave
- provide effective and enabling educational leadership and structures that support educational enhancement
- ensure that learning takes place within a high-quality environment that enables both students and staff to achieve their full academic potential

The Bristol experience
At Bristol we set the bar high and we encourage excellence in our teaching and the overall student experience in many ways. Our 2014 National Student Survey results showed that 84 per cent of our students expressed ‘overall satisfaction’ and 90 per cent indicated that they found their course intellectually stimulating. While we deliver excellence in many areas, we are aware that more can be done to give students the best possible experience at Bristol and this is currently a key focus of activity.

We take steps to promote student engagement and satisfaction, with strong leadership in subject disciplines to provide a strong sense of academic community. Our framework for student support and tutoring encourages independent and active learning, while our work with the University of Bristol Students’ Union (UBSU) aims to champion greater student engagement and student representation within the academic life of the University. Similarly, we maintain rigorous processes to maintain our high standards of teaching, including periodic peer review and encouragement to push forward pedagogic boundaries.

Research-led education
The University is dedicated to providing the highest quality education to its students, exposing them to the very latest thinking in their academic discipline through research-led teaching.

This approach is seen right across the University’s curriculum. For example, the University’s eBiolabs and ChemLabS (Bristol Chemical Laboratory Sciences), which developed web-based, fully-interactive Dynamic Laboratory Manuals (DLM) to support undergraduate laboratory-based teaching and learning with video, interactive simulations and virtual instrumentation alongside inbuilt pre- and in-laboratory e-assessment and safety training. The DLMs have replaced the traditional printed lab manuals, allowing students to practise methods online prior to going to the lab, thereby increasing preparation and confidence.

The DLMs were shortlisted in the Teaching Excellence category in the Guardian’s first ever University Awards, which recognises best practice, achievement and innovation in a range of categories.

“Our framework for student support and tutoring encourages independent and active learning”

We are committed to continually raising awareness of the value we place on excellence in teaching. The Bristol Teaching Awards is a recent illustration of this commitment. Now in its second year, the scheme made 16 awards across the Institution to recognise and promote teaching excellence. In addition, the University awarded three University Teaching Fellowships. The Fellowships recognise those individuals who are aware that more can be done to give students the best possible experience at Bristol and this is currently a key focus of activity.

Students can take advantage of a range of opportunities to help develop their skills and gain useful experience.
Education and the student experience

Students are supported socially, culturally, pastorally, financially and academically.

who make an outstanding impact on the student learning experience and allow members of staff a dedicated period of time to develop a scholarly and evidence-based approach to the learning experience and teaching practices.

Skills development
The University provides its students with the academic and personal development opportunities that will enable them to respond to the intellectual, social and personal challenges they will encounter throughout their lives and careers.

This is achieved partly through participatory teaching and learning methods that motivate and empower students to achieve their personal goals and serve society’s needs across the globe. Such methods include incorporating key sustainable development issues into teaching and learning through the University’s Education for Sustainable Development initiative, which encompasses environmental factors as well as social, economic, ethical and cultural values.

Other teaching and learning approaches that reflect the international profile of the University’s students as well as its global reach include the International Foundation Programme. This is an expanding area that prepares students for undergraduate study in the UK through English language classes and lectures and seminars in their chosen subject area. Another example is the Applied Foreign Languages programme, which offers modern languages units open to undergraduate students across the University.

Enterprise education opportunities are available to all students – for example, through our Enterprise Competition which awards financial, legal, marketing and business acceleration support for the best business ideas. In addition, the University’s Basecamp supported over 200 students to explore business ideas across the academic year. Students can take advantage of a range of opportunities to help develop their skills and gain useful experience.

More than 2,000 paid roles are available to students across the University, including Campus Internships, which provide demanding, project-based work, and via the University Internship Scheme, which funds students to work with small and medium-size enterprises in a variety of sectors.

The Bristol PluS Awards recognise and reward University of Bristol students who have gained significant professional and life skills through work experience, volunteering and other activities outside of their studies. During 2013-2014, 450 of our students successfully completed the award and 51 students who demonstrated exceptional skills development completed the Outstanding Award.

All of this means that our graduates are highly sought after by employers (Bristol was named as the fifth most targeted university by top employers in 2013-2014 in The Graduate Market 2014 Report).

Curriculum development
We continually refine our curriculum through the development of new programmes of study across all disciplines and across our undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. For example, during 2013-2014 we developed 14 new postgraduate taught programmes and a further 11 postgraduate taught programmes had their first intake.

International students and international study
We strive to maintain a rich and diverse student body and attract the most able scholars from across the globe. We believe this to be a fundamental strength and characteristic of the University and critical to the overall student experience.

We also encourage our home students to take advantage of the many opportunities we provide for overseas education. This includes our exchange links with over 150 top-ranking universities in more than 30 countries around the world.

Student wellbeing
An important element in supporting the transition from school to university is the first-year residential guarantee to all undergraduate students. We ensure close integration between the residential experience and the students’ wider university experience.

Pastoral and educational support is embedded within the residences, with wardens, deputy wardens, senior residents, Junior Common Room committees and senior and personal tutors all on hand to ensure that students are supported, socially, culturally, pastorally and financially as well as academically.

The University provides outstanding student-centred health, welfare and counselling support structures, designed to ensure that all of our students are supported through their education. These include the Students’ Health Service, Multifaith Chaplaincy, Disability Services, Student Counselling and Vulnerable Students’ Support Service.

Widening participation
The University has developed an innovative and creative outreach culture while adopting an evidence-based approach to policy and procedure. We remain determined to achieve a more diverse student community, recognising the social, educational and cultural benefits this confers to the individual and institution.

We believe that widening participation has a moral as well as a pragmatic foundation. It is right that anyone with the necessary abilities should feel encouraged to aspire to Bristol, regardless of their background.

In order to help raise attainment within local schools and colleges, 80 Bristol students act as mentors and tutors, working in 15 educational establishments.

Each year 500 school students take part in the Access to Bristol scheme for local students in school years 12 and 13, and each year 245 school students engage in our residential summer schools, which the University has been running for over a decade.

One such example is the Sutton Trust Summer School, which is designed for year 12 students from disadvantaged backgrounds who have outstanding academic ability. Students can apply to one of seven subject streams, including engineering, humanities, law and medical sciences, and attend a number of taster sessions. They also receive guidance on other key areas of student

“It is right that anyone with the necessary abilities should feel encouraged to aspire to Bristol, regardless of their background”
life, from UCAS applications to finance. Similarly, the Pathways to Law programme is aimed at those students from non-privileged backgrounds who aspire to a career in law. The two-year programme gives students the chance to experience lectures and seminars held by the University’s internationally recognised academics on various aspects of law.

Employment and opportunities
At Bristol we seek to deliver a challenging and intellectually stimulating overall student experience, ensuring that our students are adequately prepared and equipped to become highly professional graduates and potential leaders.

As part of its commitment to preparing its students for life after higher education, the University offers a number of enterprise education initiatives and mentoring schemes aimed at those who wish to gain further insight into their profession.

Spark, based at the University of Bristol, runs a course for students wishing to set up their own business. Similarly, the Pathways to Law degree scheme is aimed at those students from non-privileged backgrounds who aspire to a career in law. The two-year programme gives students the chance to experience lectures and seminars held by the University’s internationally recognised academics on various aspects of law.

Student activities
The University’s students are involved in a variety of extracurricular activities, from the running and management of a number of successful media organisations to partaking in a wide-ranging sports programme, all of which they do on a voluntary basis and in addition to their academic studies.

In 2013 Epigram, the University’s student newspaper, celebrated its 25th anniversary with an eight-page supplement reflecting on the last quarter of a century. A leader in its field, Epigram was the first student newspaper in Europe to go online and the first in the UK to be printed in colour. It has a circulation of around 6,000 and past editors include James Landale, the BBC’s Deputy Political Editor.

Student achievements
The University of Bristol remains committed to promoting environmental and sustainable issues and its efforts were recognised by the National Union of Students, who awarded the University a Gold Standard Green Impact Award. Exceptionally talented students are supported through the High Performance Squad, which helps athletes pursue their sporting careers without compromising on their academic studies. One such athlete is law student Jasmine Sawyer, who won a silver medal in the women’s long jump at the Commonwealth Games 2014. She is now working towards the World Championships in Athletics in Beijing and the Rio Olympics in 2016.

Each year the University awards the Bristol Red to students who have produced exceptional performance in their chosen sport and whose level of achievement and commitment goes beyond University first team level. In 2014 Reds were awarded to Josh Smye (ultimate Frisbee), Georgina Barrington (fencing), James Peters (sailing), Rafal Szwalbe (fencing), Humphrey Kayange Emonyi (rugby), Alun Welsh (hockey) and Andrew Crawford, Kieran Whittle, Charlie Harbot, George Mack and Adam Clarke-Williams (all water polo).

Away from the sporting arena, a cohort of students became the first group in the country to complete an innovative new programme. The University of Bristol’s unique BA English Literature and Community Engagement (BA ELCE) degree saw students and staff work together over six years to plan and run community projects that promote the positive impact of reading, while simultaneously studying a wide range of literature at degree level.

The University boasts exceptionally talented students across a wide variety of disciplines and is proud to have consistently produced a number of professional athletes and Olympians.

“University of Bristol Students’ Union”
“The University of Bristol students creating a world-class student life for themselves”

Party Shadow Housing Minister Emma Reynolds to the Richmond Building to discuss the issue. Nearly a third of privately rented homes in Bristol now fall below the ‘decent home’ standard. In response, UBU set up its own letting agency to improve the rental landscape for all its students. Key features of the service include a Landlord Code of Conduct, to ensure properties are of an acceptable standard.

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Honorary degrees

The University considers the awarding of an honorary degree as one of higher education’s most significant accolades. Each year, following very careful consideration, the University bestows a number of honorary degrees on individuals who merit special recognition for outstanding achievement and distinction in a field or activity which reflects the University’s high standards and values.

// Honorary fellowships
Dr Roger Woolley, DL, LLD(Hon)

// Honorary degrees

January 2014
Jasmine Whitbread
(Doctor of Laws)
Andrew Shore
(Doctor of Music)
Professor Steve Kay
(Dr of Science)
Dr Jacqueline Cornish, OBE
(Doctor of Science)
Administrator Charles Bolden
(Dr of Engineering)
Sir David Carter
(Doctor of Laws)

July 2014
Dr Julian Hector
(Doctor of Science)
Rosalind Savage, MBE
(Doctor of Laws)
Professor Sir Mark Woolard
(Doctor of Engineering)
Steven Dayman
(Doctor of Laws)
David Scott
(Doctor of Engineering)
Princess Campbell, MBE
(Doctor of Laws)
Professor Sir John Temple
(Doctor of Science)
The Rt Hon Lady Justice Sharp, DBE
(Doctor of Laws)
Professor Steve West
(Doctor of Laws)
Professor Eric Shippard
(Doctor of Science)
Bob Reeves
(Doctor of Laws)
Robert Dutton
(Doctor of Laws)
Paul Stephenson, OBE
(Doctor of Laws)

Investing in our estate

The University continues to invest in its estate to ensure it provides the best research and teaching facilities for its students and staff. For the second consecutive year, the University has invested over £100 million in its buildings, public realm and major equipment.

Capital programme
The largest project in the capital programme is the Bristol Life Sciences Building. This new landmark for the estate was completed earlier this year and now houses staff from the School of Biological Sciences. The building and its associated landscape, which includes a major improvement to the Royal Fort, has cost £56 million and constitutes the University’s largest ever investment in the Estate.

The Richmond Building is now nearing the end of a lengthy £30 million renovation while the revivified Arvon Rooms reopened at Christmas 2013, providing a complete refresh of the popular student venue alongside a range of new student activity spaces, including state-of-the-art facilities for dance, art and radio.

The relocation of staff from the Fry Building, the former home of Biological Sciences, marks the start of the scheduled renovation work on this Grade II building, which will provide a new home for the School of Mathematics and transform this historic part of the campus.

Elsewhere on the main Clifton campus, work is near completion on a 450-seat lecture theatre, located in Priory Road, which will open its doors in October 2014. This £4 million development will be the University largest and most comprehensively equipped teaching space and will also serve as a venue for public engagement events and conferences.

In Park’s Road, the University has completed the renovation of three buildings, purchased last year from the Royal Fort, has cost £56 million and constitutes the University’s largest ever investment in the Estate.

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Environmental efforts
The University’s sustainability team achieved a number of national awards, recognising the quality of their work on a variety of fronts. In November, the Sustainability team won the annual Green Gown Award for ‘Continual Improvement: Institutional Change’. This award represented achievement across a broad spectrum of sustainability activity over the past five years.

The team also won the prestigious Community Champion of the Year Award, an initiative launched by the Chartered Institute of Wastes Management as part of their Environmental Excellence Awards. The award recognised the combined efforts of the Sustainability team, the University of Bristol Students’ Union (UBU) and Unite to collect unwanted goods at the end of the academic year. The team collected nine tonnes of unwanted goods and raised £16,000 for local charities.

In August, UBU launched its Green Transformation Project, a sustainability scheme aiming to change the environmental behaviour of University students. UBU became one of 25 students’ unions to receive funding from the National Union of Students for this transformational project.

The Life Sciences Building, Priory Road Lecture Theatre, National Composites Centre, and Richmond Building have all achieved or are on target for the BREEAM Excellent Award for attainment in sustainable design. The Life Sciences Buildings showcases work being progressed across all laboratory buildings to provide solutions to high-energy demand in highly serviced buildings, both through design innovation and through improved management practices.
Bristol alumni are an exceptional group of individuals. Below, we have highlighted just some of our alumni’s recent achievements.

Professor Cecilia McDowell CB (PhD) (1970), Managing Director of Scitec Consulting, was named in the Science Council’s list of the top 100 practising scientists.

Annie Burnside (MA 1971), former Warden of Clifton Hill House, was made Chevalier dans l’Ordre National de la Légion d’Honneur, the highest decoration in France.

Loraine Knowles (BA 1974), Senior Director at English Heritage, was nominated for an OBE for services to heritage.

Matthew Baillie (BA 1994, MSc 1997) received an OBE in the Diplomatic Services and Overseas List of the 2013 Birthday Honours for promoting peace and security in Somalia.

Annie Turner (BA 1982) finished fourth in the super-G, sixth in the slalom and eighth in the giant slalom events at the 2014 Sochi Paralympic Games.

Will Dean (BA 2003), founder and CEO of CIMB Group, won the National EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2013 Emerging Award.

Harry Bloxham (MEng 2011), received an MBE for services to healing and nanotechnology research, unlocking world-changing discoveries.

Nishtha Chugh (BA 1994) received an OBE in the 2017 New Year’s Honours for her contribution to serving people in Rwanda.

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Mr Alan A N Jordan (Certificate 1999)
Mr John A R King (BSc 1984)
Mrs Anna K Kirrage
Mr Nicholas A Kington (BEng 2001)
Dr Anthony F Klein (BSc 1985, PhD 1990)
Mrs Deborah J Knight (BSc 1990)
Mr Michael J Koch (BSc 1999)
Mrs Emma L Kirby (Spaith) (BA 1998)*
Mr David K L Keeley (BSc 1981)
Mr Alan A N Jordan (Certificate 1999)
Mr John A R King (BSc 1984)
Mrs Anna K Kirrage
Mr Nicholas A Kington (BEng 2001)
Dr Anthony F Klein (BSc 1985, PhD 1990)
Mrs Deborah J Knight (BSc 1990)
Mr Michael J Koch (BSc 1999)
Mrs Anna L Kirrage
Mr Michael J Koch (BSc 1999)
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